FIGURE IN PROBE WINS LIBEL SUIT

New York Firm Is Sued; $5,000 Awarded

Carlos Bringuier, who is a Cuban exile, local businessman and a figure in the Kennedy assassination probe, has won a $5,000 award in a libel suit in Civil District Court.

On Wednesday, Judge David Gertler ruled that Canyon Books and Canyon Distributing Co., New York, are responsible to Bringuier for this amount.

Bringuier sued these defendants and also author Harold Weisberg for his book, "Oswald in New Orleans—Case for Conspiracy with the C.I.A."

However, Weisberg was not ruled against by Judge Gertler. Attorneys for Bringuier said that there is no jurisdiction over Weisberg in New Orleans unless he appears here again and can be legally served with papers.

Still pending is a U.S. District Court suit before Judge Alvin B. Rubin in which Bringuier is suing two other publications and Weisberg for his book, "Whitewash."

In his suit against Canyon, Bringuier alleged that Weisberg's connecting him with Lee Harvey Oswald, accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy, was an "unwarranted, false, malicious and libelous attack . . ."

Bringuier said in his suit these allegations were "intended to disgrace him and deprive him of the confidence and good will of society and to lessen its esteem for him."

Bringuier, a naturalized American, said from the witness stand Wednesday that Weisberg's work made him appear to be un-American and more in love with the Soviet Union than with the United States.

At the heart of Weisberg's reasoning, he said, is that he (Bringuier) was cooperating with Oswald while Oswald was in New Orleans in 1963.

A letter from Canyon to Bringuier's attorneys, Herbert C. Parker III and Nestor Marquez-Diaz, says that its book was withdrawn from sales here in early July and that it wasn't contesting the suit.

Bringuier's suit decided on Wednesday had sought $50,000 in damages.

The Federal Court suit, which was transferred from another Civil District Court suit, is against Weisberg, Gambi Publications, publisher of Saga magazine, and Dell Publishing Co., publisher of "Whitewash"; both are New York companies.

Bringuier said Wednesday that Saga quoted from "Whitewash" in part about his alleged lack of patriotism and his cooperation with Oswald.

Marquez-Diaz said that Wednesday's decision is "a complete vindication for Carlos Bringuier and shows he is a loyal American."

Bringuier said Wednesday he hopes the ruling will remove some of the stigma attached to Cuban exiles caused by District Attorney Jim Garrison's assassination investigation.